

**GDOT Statewide Transportation Plan (SWTP) Update
Summary of Comment Form Responses
January 2005 Public Meetings**

As of February 9, 2005, a total of 33 comment forms and 6 additional written comments have been received by GDOT. Responses to the comment form questions are summarized below.

1) What do you think is the major transportation problem facing the state? Facing your region?

State:

Several respondents cited maintenance issues as the major transportation problem in the state. Respondents identified both the lack of adequate funding to maintain existing infrastructure and a lack of funding to build new infrastructure. Roadway congestion and lack of roadway connectivity were also identified as major problems, as well as a lack of intermodal connectivity and a lack of options for alternate modes of transportation. Other responses included the need for improvement to public transportation systems and a concern that the state's current priority is road building.

Region:

Several respondents at the Atlanta meeting identified the regional issue of keeping transportation infrastructure at pace with growth. Other Atlanta attendees identified issues including: public transit, traffic congestion, air quality, inadequate roadway capacity, and a need for financing options due to inadequate funding.

In Savannah, respondents cited the lack of east-west connectivity, a need for improvements to public transit, inadequate funding, and a lack of alternative modes.

Tifton attendees identified problems including the need for a truck route, lack of transportation options for the disabled, rural transit, and a need for widening two lane roads to four lanes.

2) What do you think is the most important transportation improvement you would like to see in the state? In your region?

State:

Respondents most frequently identified roadway improvements including general upgrades and maintenance. Several respondents mentioned improving public transit and implementing passenger rail and other alternative modes of transportation. Other desired improvements include bicycle and pedestrian improvements, connectivity and mobility improvements, operational improvements, and the implementation of toll roads.

Region:

Respondents at the Atlanta meeting identified the Beltline transit and path, commuter rail, and public transit as the most important regional improvements.

Savannah respondents cited East-West connectivity, and bridge improvements, as well as interstate system improvements, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, system maintenance, and traffic signal timing.

In Tifton, respondents noted the regionally specific improvements including the need for a truck route, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, rural transit, and options for the handicapped and disabled.

3) What are your thoughts on the following ways to raise additional funds to achieve the improvements?

Increase the gas tax?

19 (69%) respondents said that they would support or would be okay with an increase in the gas tax. Some included conditions for support, such as the increase going directly to transportation or roads, or requiring that a portion of the funds be diverted to local governments for transportation projects. 8 (28%) respondents said they would not support a gas tax increase. 1 (3%) respondent needed more information to make a decision.

Construct more toll roads or dedicated toll lanes?

19 (76%) respondents said that they would support the construction of more toll roads or dedicated toll lanes or felt it was worth looking into. 6 (24%) responded that they would not support or did not think it was necessary to have more toll roads or dedicated toll lanes.

Increase motor vehicle registration fees?

7 (33%) respondents would support an increase in motor vehicle registration fees. 11 (52%) would not. 3 (14%) would support the idea with conditions, such as a moderate increase or a requirement that corporate vehicles register locally.

Increase local option sales tax available for transportation purposes?

19 (83%) respondents liked the idea of an increase in the portion of the local option sales tax available for transportation purposes. Several of these respondents included conditions such as a slight to moderate increase for specific short-term projects or requiring a regional element. 4 (17%) respondents said they would not support this type of increase.

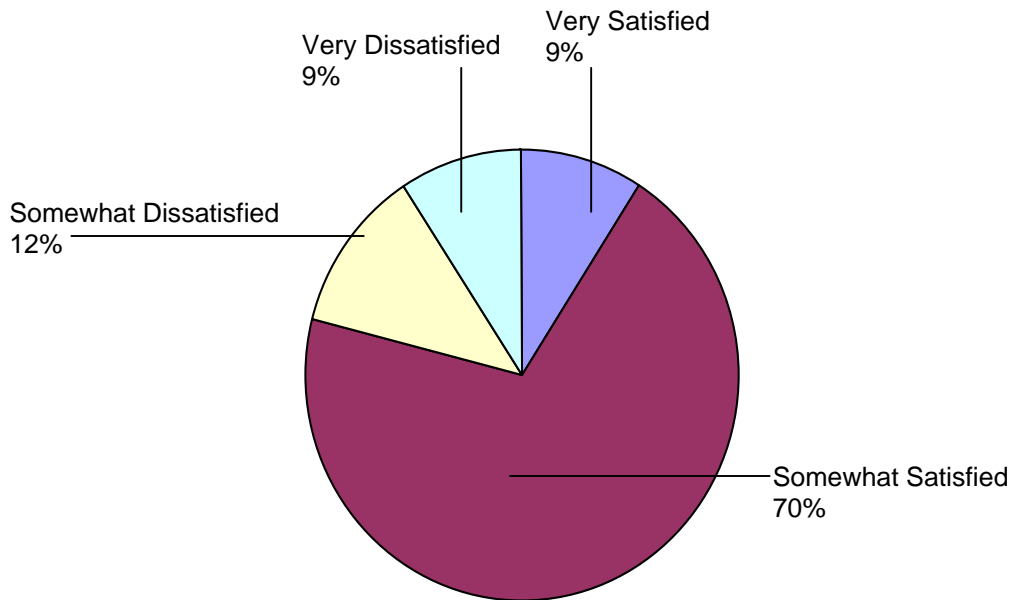
Additional borrowing?

7 (37%) would support additional borrowing. One respondent identified bonds as the borrowing technique and one supported additional borrowing in conjunction with the other techniques. 12 (63%) respondents would not support additional borrowing.

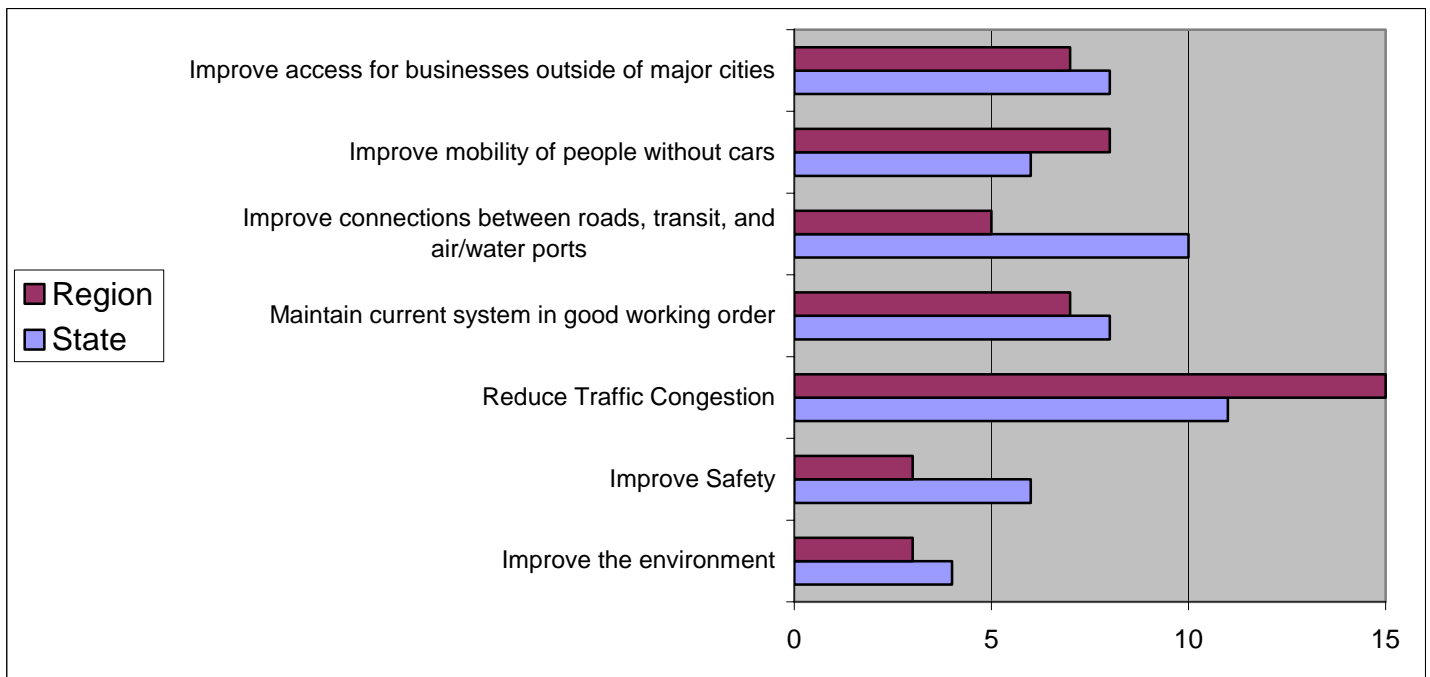
Other suggestions include:

- Provide state funding for transit.
- Pass a law requiring the state and communities to spend a percentage of their transportation funds on pedestrian and cyclist needs.
- Allocate more of the state budget to road projects.
- Tax districts from resulting development of commuter [rail] stations.
- Either institute or increase a toll or tax for using infrastructure at peak times.
- User fees.
- Dedicated gas tax for transportation, not general fund.

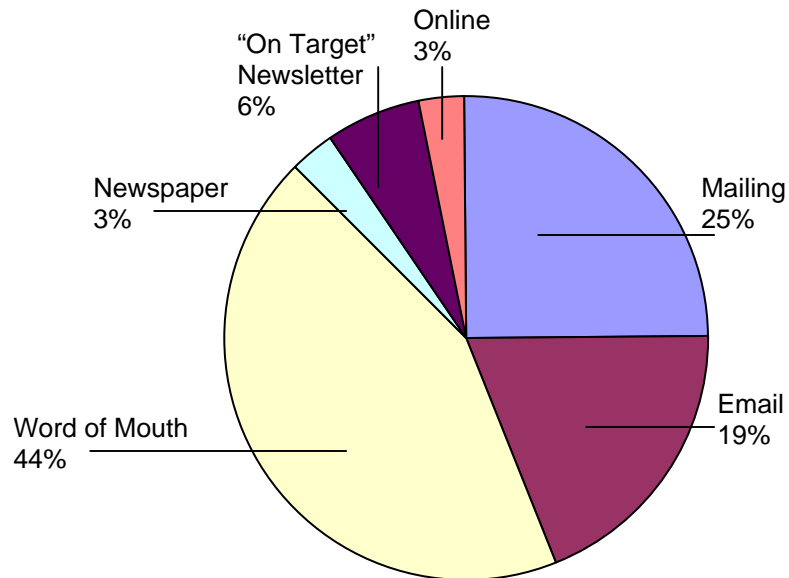
4) How would you describe your level of satisfaction with the state's transportation system?



5) What is the most important priority to accomplish by investing in the state and your region's transportation system?



6) How did you hear about tonight's meeting?



Additional written comments submitted to GDOT include the following:

- Seek alternative sources of revenue to increase funding for all modes including capital and operating support for transit.
- Consider legislation to exempt transit systems from motor fuel taxes.
- Create a State Infrastructure Bank to help fund improvements for all modes.
- Expedite completion of GRIP Corridors.
- Add bicycle lanes in rural areas.
- Improve and develop bypasses and connectors in rural areas.
- Conduct feasibility studies to improve truck traffic flow and bicycle and pedestrian connectivity.
- Issues with commuter rail plans to Lovejoy as they currently stand.
- Commendation for reaching out to Regional Development Centers for input on issues from across the state.